

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139265

62

ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 SCI-01 CU-04 USIA-12 RSC-01 /025 R

DRAFTED BY SMITHSONIAN:WDCOERR:JS

APPROVED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

SMITHSONIAN:JEARLY/RCONROY

AF/W:GHMITCHELL

CU/AF:GWEST

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P 272129Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 139265

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE
FESTIVAL

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS,
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

REF: LAGOS 5831

1. REFTEL STATES IS UNLIKELY THAT FMG WILL PERMIT DEPARTURE OF NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS IN SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL UNTIL JULY 1 OR 2. THIS COULD MAKE IT VERY LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD BE LATE FOR FIRST SESSIONS OF FESTIVAL JULY 3-7.

2. SMITHSONIAN HOPES FMG WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT ARRANGEMENTS AND ADVANCE PUBLICITY, BASED ON ASSURANCES FROM AMBASSADOR GARBA, HAVE PROMISED NIGERIAN PRESENCE AT OPENING, WHICH ALSO VERY IMPORTANT TO SUCCESS OF AFRICAN DIASPORA PROGRAM. NIGERIAN ABSENCE AT OPENING WOULD BE DISAPPOINTMENT BOTH TO SMITHSONIAN AND TO PUBLIC. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE ANY IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE THAT AMBASSADOR COULD GIVE IN THIS MATTER. SISCO

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